

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendments is respectfully requested.

The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependency and to place them in better condition for U.S. patent practice.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the subject application, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marked-up Claims 1-23

1. (Amended) Organic sol, [characterized in that is comprises] comprising:
- titanium oxide particles;
 - an organic liquid phase;
 - at least one amphiphilic compound [chosen] selected from the group consisting of polyoxyethylenated alkyl ether phosphates.
2. (Amended) Sol according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the titanium oxide particles are at least partially covered by a layer of at least one silicon or metallic oxide, hydroxide or oxyhydroxide.
3. (Amended) Sol according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the titanium oxide particles are at least partially covered:
- by a first layer of at least one cerium and/or iron compound, and
 - by a second layer of at lest one silicon or metallic oxide, hydroxide or oxyhydroxide.
4. (Amended) Sol according to claim 2 [or 3], [characterized in that] wherein the titanium oxide particles have a BET specific surface area of at least 70 m²/g.

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5. (Amended) Sol according to [one of claims 2 to 4] claim 2, [characterized in that] wherein the ratio by weight of the silicon or metallic oxide(s), hydroxide(s) or oxyhydroxide(s) to titanium dioxide is at most 60% by weight.

6. (Amended) Sol according to [one of claims 3 to 5] claim 3, [characterized in that] wherein the first aforementioned layer is based on at least one cerium compound with a content such that the ratio by weight of the cerium compound, expressed in CeO₂, to the titanium dioxide is at most 6% by weight.

7. (Amended) Sol according to [one of claims 2 to 6] claim 2, [characterized in that] wherein the [aforementioned] first layer or the [aforementioned] second layer is based on silica and/or aluminum oxide, hydroxide or oxyhydroxide.

8. (Amended) Sol according to [one of the previous claims] claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the organic liquid phase is based on a polar solvent.

9. (Amended) Sol according to [one of the previous claims] claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the amphiphilic compound is [chosen] selected from the group consisting of polyoxyethylenated alkyl or alkylaryl ether phosphates.

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10. (Amended) Sol according to [one of the previous claims] claim 1,
[characterized in that] wherein the polar solvent is [chosen] selected from the group
consisting of halogenated solvents, esters, and alcohols.

11. (Amended) Solid compound[, characterized in that it comprises] comprising
a mixture of titanium oxide particles and at least one amphiphilic compound [chosen]
selected from polyoxyethylenated alkyl ether phosphates.

12. (Amended) Solid compound according to claim 11, [characterized in that]
wherein the titanium oxide particles are at least partially covered with a layer of at least one
silicon or metallic oxide, hydroxide or oxyhydroxide.

13. (Amended) Solid compound according to claim 11, [characterized in that]
wherein the titanium oxide particles are at least partially covered:

- by a first layer of at least one cerium and/or iron compound, and
- by a second layer of at least one silicon or metallic oxide, hydroxide or
oxyhydroxide.

14. (Amended) Process for the preparation of a sol according to [one of claims
1 to 10] claim 1, [characterized in that] comprising the [aforementioned] mixing
amphiphilic compound and the organic liquid phase [are mixed] together, then the titanium

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oxide particles, optionally covered with one or both of the aforementioned layers, are dispersed in the mixture obtained.

15. (Amended) Process for the preparation of a sol according to [one of claims 1 to 10] claim 1, [characterized in that] comprising a mixture [is formed] forming of titanium oxide particles, optionally covered by one or both of the aforementioned layers, and at least one aforementioned amphiphilic compound, then dispersing said mixture [is dispersed] in the liquid phase.

16. (Amended) Process for the preparation of a sol according to [one of claims 1 to 10] claim 1 comprising an organic liquid phase (a), in particular a sol in an organic phase (a) based on a polar solvent, [characterized in that] comprising forming a dispersion [is formed] comprising titanium oxide particles, optionally covered by one or both of the aforementioned layers, and at least one aforementioned amphiphilic compound in an organic liquid phase (b) based on a solvent with a lower polarity than that of the solvent of the organic liquid phase (a); separating the solid phase [is separated] from the liquid phase (b); and dispersing the solid phase obtained in this way [is dispersed] in the organic phase (a).

17. (Amended) Preparation process according to [one of claims 14 to 16] claim 14, [characterized in that] comprising using, as the starting product, titanium dioxide

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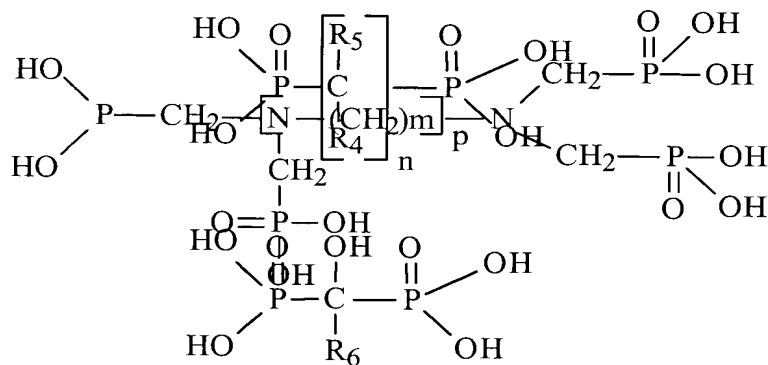
particles [are used] which were obtained by hydrolysis of at least one titanium compound A in the presence of at least one compound B [chosen] selected from the group consisting of:

(i) acids which have:

- either a carboxyl group and at least two hydroxyl and/or amine groups,
- or at least two carboxyl groups and at least one hydroxyl and/or amine

group,

(ii) organic phosphoric acids of the following formulas:



in which n and m are integers comprised between 1 and 6, p is an integer comprised between 0 and 5, R₄, R₅ and R₆ identical or different represent a hydroxyl, amino, aralkyl, aryl, alkyl group or hydrogen group,

- (iii) the compounds capable of releasing sulphate ions in an acid medium,
- (iv) salts of the acids described above

and in the presence of anatase titanium dioxide seeds;

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then [separation of] separating the precipitate formed from the hydrolysis medium.

18. (Amended) Process according to claim 17, [characterized in that] comprising using, as the starting product, titanium dioxide particles [are used] which were obtained by the [aforementioned] hydrolysis process and in which the anatase titanium dioxide seeds are of a size no greater than 8 nm and are present in ratio by weight expressed in TiO₂ present in the seeds/titanium present before the introduction of the seeds into the hydrolysis medium, expressed in TiO₂ comprised between 0.01 % and 3 %.

19. (Amended) Process according to claim 17 [or 18], [characterized in that] comprising using, as the starting product, titanium dioxide particles [are used] which were obtained by the aforementioned hydrolysis process and in which the titanium compound A is titanium oxychloride.

20. (Amended) Process according to [one of claims 17 to 19] claim 17, [characterized in that] comprising using, as the starting product, titanium dioxide particles [are used] which were obtained by the aforementioned hydrolysis process and in which compound B is citric acid.

21. (Amended) Process according to [one of claims 17 to 20] claim 17, [characterized in that] comprising using, as the starting product, titanium dioxide particles

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[are used] which were obtained by a process comprising the aforementioned hydrolysis and in which the precipitate formed is separated from the hydrolysis medium then redispersed in water resulting in a dispersion of titanium oxide in water and where said dispersion is dried at a temperature no greater than 120°C.

22. (Amended) Process according to [one of claims 14 to 21], [characterized in that] wherein the sol is subjected to an ultrafiltration treatment.

23. (Amended) [Use of a sol according to one of claims 1 to 10 for the preparation of formulations] Formulates for cosmetics, varnishes, paints [and in] or plastics comprising an effective amount of the sol according to claim 1.